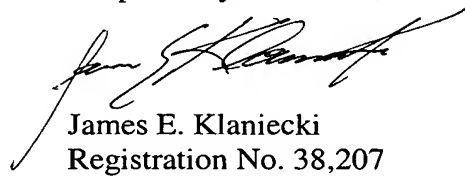


3. Remarks

Applicants have withdrawn claims 1-11 without prejudice and reserve the option of pursuing these claims in this and future applications. Applicants have introduced new claims 12-30. Applicants kindly request entry of the amendment prior to substantive examination.

Respectfully submitted,



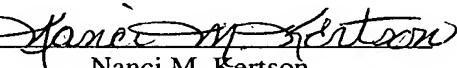
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

Date: January 7, 2004

Signed: 
Nanci M. Kertson